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ABSTRACT

It is stated that the social science curriculum for gifted junior high school students can be enriched by drawing from psychology, sociology, and anthropology. An overview of instruction in the social sciences includes specification of subject matter emphases in grades 7-9, definition of major goals (process, personal, and situational goals) in social sciences, and consideration of the requirements for a successful program (small classes, exciting topics, reasonable grading, cultural exposure, communication with parents, variety). Conduct of research projects at each of the three grade levels is discussed, and five steps involved in carrying out a research project are outlined. Provided are some sample applications of research skills, in which the method used is to begin inductively and end deductively, and some sample stimulus questions or discussion starters concerning language drawn primarily from the fields of psychology and sociology. Finally the field-study method as a means of developing creativity is presented, and numerous provocative topics for interviews or classroom study are listed. The appended list of suggested books for students includes nonfiction, fiction, biography, and reference works. (KW)



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Teaching Gifted Students Social Sciences in Grades Seven Through Nine

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Wilson Riles - Superintendent of Public Instruction Sacramento, 1972

Teaching Gifted Students Social Sciences in Grades Seven Through Nine

Prepared for the

DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION California State Department of Education

Ву

RCBERT S. MILES

Long Beach Unified School District

US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
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FOREWORD

Mentally gifted students require a large share of the teacher's time and talents, even though they comprise only a small part of the student population. Gifted students can move through an ordinary curriculum with ease; therefore, to challenge them successfully, the teacher must utilize many resources.

Many of the gifted students will become eminent leaders of education, industry, and government. If their special educational needs are not met, the gifted will become frustrated, and their frustration can prevent their reaching constructive goals. If this happens, both the state and the nation will suffer a great loss.

The teacher can best serve the mentally gifted by shaping the curriculum to their needs and by varying the manner and rate of teaching the subject. This will win and hold the students' inter st.

The State Department of Education has conducted a project to develop appropriate curriculum materials. This publication is one in a series from that project. This series of publications will contain important concepts and suggestions for the best of the contains.

important concepts and suggestions for teaching the mentally gifted. It is my hope and belief that these publications designed for the mentally gifted will be most useful to both mentally gifted students and the teachers who instruct them.

Willet Tiles

Superintendent of Public Instruction



PREFACE

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This publication, one in a series authorized and funded under provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title V, is intended for use by teachers, consultants, and administrators involved in programs for mentally gifted minors. As defined in the Education Code, a mentally gifted minor is a student with such of all students enrolled at his grade level in California schools.

The readers of this publication should refet to another important publication of the Department of Education — Principles, Objectives, and Curricula for Programs in the Education of Mentally Gifted Minors: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve. That preliminary document complements the material contained here. Both the series of publications for teachers, consultants, and administrators and the preliminary document were developed under the direction of Mary N. Meeker and James F. Magary of the University of Southern California.

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Chapter 1

Overview of Instruction in the Social Sciences

No subject area lends itself more to the education of mentally gifted minors than does the study of the social sciences. Webster's Third New International Dictionary defines social science as (1) "the branches of science that deal with the institutions and functioning of human society and with the interpersonal relationships of individuals as members of society"; and (2) "a science (as economics or political science) dealing with a particular phase or aspect of human society." Donald Popham describes the social sciences as follows:

The social sciences may be described as those organized bodies of knowledge built up from the formal, scholarly, and advanced studies that deal with human beings and their interrelationships. These sciences are concerned with the detailed, systematic, and theoretical study of human relationships. They provide a perspective within which these relationships may be described, classified, and explained.

activities, and organizations resulting from man's reaction to his environment....Sociology is the study of the forms, institutions, and functions of human groups.¹

Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology

Another subject that falls within the discipline of the social sciences is psychology. A behavioral science straddling the disciplines of the natural sciences and the social sciences, psychology is usually defined as "the study of human behavior."

The junior high school can provide a basis for enriching the social science curriculum for the gifted by drawing from psychology, sociology, and anthropology. These disciplines and the overlap between them establish the subject matter that makes up the course of study; it is often difficult, however, to determine where one ends and the other begins. Each segment has its own exclusive body of knowledge, but for the gifted at this level, the boundary lines are erased.

¹Teaching Gifted Students Social Sciences in Grades Ten Through Twelve, Prepared by Donald F. Popham. Sacramento: California State Department of Education, 1971.



Parameters of the Social Sciences

If an individual is to understand where he fits into the scheme of things and if he is to build a hierarchy of values for himself and for the world in which he must exist, he needs a background of understanding and a basis for making comparisons so that he can make ethical judgments. With the gifted, even in a junior high school situation, an opportunity exists to accomplish, to a limited extent, both of these objectives.

Phenix Hierarchy

This publication presents subject matter that can be divided into separate sections for the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades. The organization used for parameters is taken from Phenix's hierarchy.² Seventh grade should have most emphasis on psychology (Who am I?), less emphasis on sociology (What is society?), and least emphasis on anthropology (Where have we been and where are we now?). In the eighth grade the emphasis should shift to sociology, with psychology and anthropology taking lesser roles. And in the ninth grade, anthropology should take the spotlight, with sociology being second in importance and psychology last.

Importance of Good Conduct

Much more goes on in the classroom than meets the eye of the casual visitor. The student must master subject matter, but he must also be punctual, cooperative, reliable, accurate, and neat. These and a host of other virtues that support harmonious relationships must be practiced by the successful student. The science teacher who said that science was the least important thing he taught was being realistic. He knew from experience that group endeavor is successful if behavior traits are adequately developed.

Goals in the Social Sciences

The major goals in social sciences include the development of human potential within three divisions – process, personal, and situational.

Process Goals

1. The student becomes aware of the processes involved in learning, and he begins to see the reasons for specific assignments.

- He is able to communicate abstract and complex ideas to breaking them down to their component parts and finding the underlying assumptions.
- 3. He is not compelled to go through a predetermined number of stages but is allowed to bypass any stage that seems unnecessation him.
- 4. He analyzes complex theories, ideas, and concepts. When I encounters instances of cloudy thinking, he recognizes the (for example, stereotypes, the desire to believe, failure to defir terms, lack of consideration of all the data, the mistaking correlation for causation).
- 5. He is aware of generalizations that are too broad (for examply words like always, never, all, everyone, and no one).
- 6. He supports his own generalizations with specific data
- 7. He learns to evaluate the reliability of his sources.

Personal Goals

- 1. The student learns independently and is able to recognize arms use organizational schemata and structures.
- 2. He becomes an effective questioner.
- 3. He shares information when involved in a group situation.
- 4. He is able to take discrete ideas, thoughts, and generalization and weave them into meaningful patterns.
- 5. He expresses intellectual curiosity and seeks means to satisfy i 6. He learns to disagree courteously and accepts and profits from
- 6. He learns to disagree courteously and accepts and profits fro constructive criticism.
- 7. He evaluates his strengths and weaknesses realistically.
- 8. He and the teacher cultivate honest and direct communicatio

Situational Goals

- 1. The student uses various media to express his own ideas.
- 2 He makes full use of his environmental sources as aids problem solving.
- 3. He works in an environment that allows him to use h intellectual curiosity. The teacher does not impose his person value judgments upon the student.

Requirements for Successful Program

The attitude of most junior high school students is expressed the words "I dare you to teach me something; better people the you have tried." This attitude makes these students difficult to teac and the gifted in the group present a particular challenge.

Since the junior high school student has several years of stucahead of him, he must be helped to form positive attitudes to the state of the several positive attitudes to the several positive attitudes attitu

²See Principles, Objectives, and Curricula for Programs in the Education of Mentally Giffed Minors: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve. Sacramento: California State Department of Education, 1971, pp. 19-20.

intellectual inquiry. As he enters the tenth grade, he should be someone who reflects the balance and breadth of curriculum for the gifted. This objective cannot be achieved unless certain administrative procedures are followed.

Small Classes

The ideal number of students in a social science class is about 20, and the enrollment should never exceed 25. In the Long Beach Unified School District, teachers utilize the subgroup method in anthropology classes at the ninth-grade level. Each class is divided into two equal groups. These groups meet on alternate days; the entire class meets only on Fridays. The limitation of subgroups to about ten students each allows the teachers to conduct seminar-style meetings. These meetings contribute to (1) the development of process, personal, and situational goals; and (2) the achievement of those grals.

Exciting Topics

The teacher should encourage students to learn as much as possible by participating in discussions of exciting topics. The teacher removes drill and rote learning from the classroom.

Reasonable Grading

The mentally gifted represent the top 2 percent of the student population. Letter grades should, therefore, be composed mostly of A's with a few B's. (In average classes nearly all gifted students would receive A's.) It is appalling to learn of high school teachers who grade gifted students in honors classes on a curve. A bell-shaped curve is a traphic way of demonstrating that if the nearly four billion people of the world were tested for intelligence, about 68 percent would be found to be average and would receive C grades if in class; about 16 percent would be found above and below the average and would receive B and D grades if in class; and the 2 percent left would represent the A and F categories.

A teacher who grades on the curve assumes that he has a representative cross section of students seated before him in the classroom. But a class for gifted and nearly gifted students would contain the top 2 percent of the student population together with representatives from the next 16 percent. These are the A and B students. The teacher of the gifted should, therefore, continually review his grading practices to make sure that he is treating each of his students fairly.

Cultural Exposure

Teachers should take their students to see and hear significant examples of culture and should bring culture to the students. Students should be able to hear speakers from the faculty, the business world, and community professions. When speakers relate what they do in their vocations, the students listen well, gain knowledge, and are more interested. Teachers should take students to local museums, places of historical interest, colleges, universities, and vocational schools. Each trip will generate discussions pertinent to the study of the social sciences. For example, a trip to a farm can inaugurate discussions of automation and its effects on migrant farm workers.

Communication with Parents

Some parents wonder why college-type classes are given to children who are gifted and "will all go to college anyway." But many of the gifted do not go to college, and of those who do go, many become disenchanted and quit. Those who go on to college should have valuable background for their advanced studies, but not to such a degree that they will lose motivation to learn later on when they are exposed to college material. And those who do not go on to college will at least have been exposed to the higher processes of learning.

Variety of Activities

Confining a group of children in a class to the use of only a textbook is self-defeating. Yet to have a classroom full of electronic equipment that is misused or unused serves no useful purpose. What is needed is a variety of activities designed to produce worthwhile results.



Chapter 2

Process of Scientific Research

Scientific research conducted by students in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades differs primarily in emphasis.

Seventh Grade

Special research projects in the seventh grade should be informal and thus introductory to scientific ways of studying human behavior. For example, Tom wants to make a model of a pyramid for the class. He asks, "Do you want a special kind of model?" You answer, "Anything that is three-dimensional." He says, "I don't make things well with my hands." You answer, "You are not to be graded on artistic talent." Tom asks, "What will I be graded on?" You reply, "You will be graded on what you show you have learned about pyramids from your model."

Significant questions such as What should I make my model of? show that the research may be coming to a temporary end. To students who are kinesthetically gifted, the most important part of the project will be the model; to the teacher, however, the model should be least important. Tom might be right about not having an aptitude for building things, but he will have had more academic exposure than mechanical exposure.

Of course, little demand exists for pyramid builders, but a demand will always exist for people who can assume the responsibility for a project and carry it out to a successful conclusion. These abilities are concrete properties of successful research to which students need to be introduced. Tom's model might look more like the leaning tower of Pisa than like a pyramid, but in industry the final model would probably be crafted by skilled workmen supervised by men like Tom and designed by professionals more kinesthetically gifted than he.

Eighth Grade

Research projects conducted in the eighth grade may be much like those conducted in the seventh grade except that a more sophisticated level is attained. For example, a model of Stonehenge may be constructed. For success at this level, more analytical intellectual skills are required.

Whether each student should be given the same assignment or a different assignment depends on factors such as class size, availability

of research material, and individual interests and time. When students have different projects, each student may present a five-inimute oral presentation, which helps students to become proficient in expressing themselves orally. Moreover, an oral presentation helps others to learn better and prevents boredom.

Ninth Grade

In the ninth grade, projects can be chosen similarly from curriculum content, and the time allotment can be stretched over a longer period.

Steps in Successful Research

In carrying out a research project, students should proceed according to five important steps.

Step One: Logic

The first step to be taken is to devote a full week to the study of formal logic. Students should learn to think clearly. Here is one suggested approach that a teacher may make for arriving at clarity of thought: "We are going to study logic most of this week. Logic is the science of correct thinking. What do we mean when we say that something is logical? I am going to write some numbers on the board. You try to figure out what logically follows. (The teacher writes on the board the numbers 22 33 44 55 ____.) Bill, what goes into the blanks? Six? Why not seven? Of course, all problems in logic are not as simple as this one. Ice is cold, but dry ice can burn your hand. Heat may be used for purpose of refrigeration. A person may laugh until he cries or cry until he laughs."

Mistakes to be avoided. Mistakes in logical thinking may now be pointed out. These include the false analogy, the accidental concomitance, and the unknown circumstance. An example of false analogy is the belief that because a person has long fingers he should become a concert pianit. To attribute rain to the fact that one had planned a picnic on that day is an example of accidental concomitance. And the unknown circumstance is illustrated by the story about the king of Siam who called the traveler from Holland a liar because the Hollander said that people in his homeland could walk on water part of the year. (The king had never seen or heard of ice, so he could not believe it was possible to walk on water.) To be competent in evaluation skills, students must be aware of these fallacies.

Inductive and deductive reasoning. The basic types of reasoning are inductive and deductive reasoning. Each works in almost opposite

ways. Inductive reasoning goes from specific instances to a general rule; deductive reasoning goes from the general rule to the explaining of specific instances. For example, a small child eating an apple discovers that the apple has a core. The next apple he eats also has a core, and the apple his sister eats has a core. Little by little he puts this information together and comes up with a general rule for all apples, which is that all apples have cores. He has gone from the observation of individual apples to a rule for all apples. This reasoning is an example of inductive logic. It also describes how students can derive concepts. The teacher should request students to develop their own examples.

Deductive logic goes the other way. If a child knows that all apples have cores, he can predict that another child eating an apple will find a core in the apple.

One of the most obvious uses of logical sequence is in outlining. A unit of study can be undertaken in which the mechanics of outlining are articulated in English class while the logic and sequence of outlining are taught in social science class.

Step Two: Research Paper

Step two deals with (1) specific qualifications; and (2) use of models.

Specific qualifications. This part deals with specific qualifications; i.e., topics, footnotes, and sources. It is important to discuss what a true topic is; a paper entitled "Evolution" certainly promises more than it can deliver. A good paper is *not* composed of opinions. Opinions have their place, but not in this type of research.

Use of models. One technique for teaching form in a research paper is the showing of models. The teacher should copy a sample page on a ditto for each member of the class as a reference form to follow in writing his paper.

A Sample Page

The most important thing to remember when assigned a research paper is to begin it promptly. Once done, half begun. 1

Make sure that your work is well organized. Select a topic that is brief. Make a tentative outline at this point. This is done to keep you from wandering off the subject. Philo Wartle has stated:

I meant well when I began, but I neglected to make an outline. By the time I got to the end of the paper I was no longer writing about the original subject,...but it was too late to do the work over. I turned it in anyway....I knew I could fool the teacher.³

"Find your references in the card catalog."4

Write down all of your sources.5

Don't use too many ibids. 6

¹Daddy X. Warbucks, How to Write Research Papers. New York: The Matrix Co., 1968, p. 202.

Ibid. p. 123.

³Philo Wartle, "How I Failed Anthropology," Science Journal, XI (February, 1967), 11.

Warbucks, op. cit. pp. 12-15.

SRobert S. Miles, Why Psychology Students Go Berserk. Los Angeles: Neurotic Publishing Co., 1968, p. 118.

6 Ibid., p. 788.

The error in the second sentence of the sample just given should be pointed out. "Once done, half begun" is wrong. It should be "Cnce begun, half done." This error illustrates one of the many reasons for footnoting. If an "expert" is quoted and is wrong, it is his own fault, not that of the writer.

Step Three: Selection of Hypothesis

A method that has proved effective and practical for selecting a hypothesis and that teaches analytical skills at the same time is the following:

For a group of ten, arrange five chairs in an inner circle and five in an outer circle. Arbitrarily divide the group. Tell them: "Inner circle, I am going to give you an idea to discuss. I will tell you what the topic is and give you about a minute to think it over. Then I will call on you one at a time. You will tell me whether you believe the statement to be true. Then you will give me your reasons. We will continue around the inner circle until everyone has contributed. Meanwhile, those in the outer circle will take notes. Then we will change places; the inner circle will become the outer circle and the outer circle becomes the inner circle."

The instructor should say very little. However, making a tape of the discussion is a good technique if students don't comprehend readily. The tape can be played back later with instructional comments or can be used for individual review.

Using hypothesis as a vehicle of a scientific inquiry requires teaching it first as a vocabulary word. Using hypothesis as a concept, the teacher can begin a lesson plan. Some hypotheses that children enjoy discussing are the following:

1. Personal cleanliness is a sign of intelligence.



- 2. Light-skinned people are more sensitive to pain than dark-skinned people.
- People of different races can safely give blood transfusions to each other.
- 4. Basic IQ throughout the world is distributed on an even basis
 5. Every society considers its own continuous to be a
- 5. Every society considers its own culture to be best.
- 6. Civilized people are happier *han uncivilized people.
- 7. Language is man's most valuable invention.
- 8. Man is human because he can reason,

Early Man (from the Life magazine series) offers many hidden hypotheses. The teacher should request three hypotheses of interest from each student and should provide each student with a 3 x 5 card on which to write them. As the cards are ready, each student can tack his own card to a builetin board in the room. After the teacher reads the cards and writes comments on them, the actual research is ready to begin.

Step Four: Class Evaluation

When the finished papers are turned in, the teacher should give to each student the paper of another student together with a research evaluation sheet. The teacher using this approach may want to have each paper evaluated by several students before collecting everything, filling out his own evaluation sheet, and finally returning everything to the owner. A sample research evaluation sheet is given as follows:

Step Five: Oral Presentation

Each student reports to the class on his work. At the conclusion of each presentation, questions are solicited from the audience. This procedure teaches synthesis and gives the student practice in fielding questions and thinking on his feet.

Communication of Research Hypotheses

A value-centered approach stresses the importance of applying classroom-acquired information to the outside world. Most students from upper middle class homes have often discussed hypotheses with their parents around the dinner table. On assignment these students can also discuss their hypotheses with their peers and with adults in the community. Disadvantaged or minority gifted children have usually not experienced such conversations.

Sample Questions

Questions are needed that (1) polish communication skills; (2) point out the importance of distinguishing fact from opinion; and (3) aid students in forming intrinsic values. Examples of such questions are the following:

- 1. Are individuals and societies the products of their cultures or are cultures the products of individuals and societies?
- 2. Do all human beings have the same basic needs? What are the basic needs? Is a car, in our society, a basic need? How are basic needs satisfied? How does environment fashion the way that people satisfy needs?
- 3. What do we mean by "uncivilized"? How can we explain that some uncivilized people have no jails because they have no crime? Why do civilized people need jails?
- 4. What are the subcultures in our society? What are the subcultures in other societies? When subcultures conflict, what must the individual do?
- 5. Are customs and beliefs learned or innate? How much of what one calls his conscience is a person born with?
- 6. What is there about culture that makes persons so slow to change their own society?
- 7. What is there about our own culture that makes us so slow to accept cultures much different from our own?
- 8. How does the lack of an effective language hinder animal societies? Are there human societies that are hindered by the lack of an effective language?
- 9. What is a superior culture? Contrast a superior culture with an inferior culture.
- 10. What characterizes the "American culture"? Can any parts of our culture be traced back to other cultures?
- 11. Arc some people culturally behind others because certain races are more backward than others? What is a race?
- Finding answers to these questions is not necessary; in some cases it is impossible. The thinking and inquiry involved are what is

once said that a good teacher is one who asks questions that he himself can't answer. If the truth were admitted, the best source of unanswerable questions is often the udent himself. important for the child's growth in the social sciences. Robert Frost

Use of Film Pro w Techniques

students learn to know concepts, to analyze relations, and to abstract meaning. First, it is advisable for the teacher to read any information other forms of communication. WI that is distributed by the producer. The steps to be taken then are as follows: Techniques used to preview f. ganized planning is followed an also be used to evaluate

- Preview the film and take notes for later use.
- 2. Prepare the class. Discuss the topic (not the film plot) ahead of
- . Do not compel the students to take notes as they view the film
- 4. Discuss the film with the class after it has been shown. Point out details that are important.
- 5. Show it again. This time stop the film from time to time. Go up on an actor's face or a significant prop in the setting. to the screen and point out subtle details such as the expression

Chapter 3

Applications of Research Skills

method used is to begin inductively and end deductively. This chapter deals with sample applications of research skills. The

Anthropology: Inductive Method

where economic scarcity prevails. the Sirionos because of their constant struggle to survive in a land determine the relationship of the hunger drive to culture. He chose Allan Holmberg, an anthropologist. He lived with these people to The Siriono Indians of Bolivia were studied for 18 months by

students are given as follows: sheets. Additional questions that the teacher may wish to ask of the based on the lecture. Students are to fill in the answers on the study lecture students should be given study sheets containing questions The teacher should initiate the case study with a lecture. After the

- 1. Knowledge and convergent production. Where is Bolivia? Can altitude affect living conditions? Why are the Sirionos isolated region in eastern Bolivia where the Sirionos live? How can someone show it on the wall map? What is the altitude of the from the civilized world?
- 2. Analysis and evaluation. What value is there to studying isolated purpose of the study? of years ago, is it still valid? Why or why not? What was the study if he had spent only two weeks among the Sirionos anthropologist who studied the Sirionos? When was his study instead of 18 months? Although this study took place a number made? Would there be any difference in the value of Holmberg's
- 3. Divergent production and synthesis. What is a good definition satisfied as long as the organism is alive? What is a psychological some examples? Are biological drives innate? Are they ever drive? Can psychological drives be satisfied permanently? Are hunger and culture? What is a biological drive? Can you give for hunger? What is culture? Is there a relationship between

Ownership of property? Hunting and fishing? Agriculture? Government? Mythology? Rhythm of activities? Musical instruments? Means of transportation? Clothes? Preparation of food? Use of fire? Decorations? Weapons? Tools? Language' Use of materials found in their environment (plant fibers, clay, and Size of house? Degree of cooperation practiced by these people? Materials from which houses are made? Furniture? Social groupings? Population? Characteristics of hair? Average height and weight of Indians? Edible plants? Temperature? Marriage customs? Physical trademarks in general? Distinct facial characteristics? Color of skin? Type of terrain? When is the rainy season? How many inches of rainfall? What determines seasons? amily units? _eadership? Number of seasons? so forth)?

Preservation of foods?
Taboos?
Games and toys?
Marriage and divorce?
Health?
Problems of old age?
Death and burial?
Religion?

The reproduction of correct answers is, of course, an intellectual task of a lower level (convergent production), but it serves as a found dation for developing intellectual skills of a higher level.

Anthropology: Deductive Method

If the approach to the research is to become deductive, students will have to do library research to find another tribe or group of people to investigate for comparison. The teacher should discourage the use of only the encyclopedia and encourage the use of other sources like the *National Geographic* and sociological textbooks. The name of the new tribe being investigated is to become the topic for the deductive paper. Some of the information listed on the first study sheet will not be found for the people under investigation; on the other hand, information will be discovered that is not asked for the teacher should discuss these possibilities and should encourage, students to add whatever seems significant.

After a specified period of reading and notetaking, the group is brought back to a seminar One student initiates the discussion by giving information about the tribe he investigated. He discusses one aspect of their society. A sample teacher-student exchange is as follows:

Teacher: "Bill, let's discuss religion first. What group did you, study?"

Bill: "The Eskimos."

Teacher: "Tell us about their religion."

After Bill talks about religion among the Eskimos, Mary follows up by discussing religion in the tribe that she investigated. Everyone is limited to this one topic until all have reported. Group discussions follow in which comparisons are made, and both deductive and inductive reasoning is used to explain the differences.

Using this approach early in the first semester provides valuable background information and helps set standards for the inquiry process.

ERIC

Psychology and Sociology

subject matter because of overlap; generally, however, they are drawn primarily from the fields of psychology and sociology. tions or discussion starters. The curriculum areas are not divided by publication; however, several ideas are presented as stimulus ques-The making of lesson plans is not within the scope of this

Ontogeny and Phylogeny

development, phylogeny is used. development, ontogeny is used; where emphasis is placed on overall to the development of language. Where emphasis is placed on present organism. Phylogeny generally refers to the complete developmental refers to the complete developmental history of an individual into the headings of ontogeny and phylogeny. Ontogeny generally history of a race or group of animals. As applied here, the terms refer The subjects discussed in the remainder of this chapter are divided

A. Problem: Does language change?

1. Gathering data

- Get a book of Shakespeare's plays. Read several pages. words you read. estimate the percent of unfamiliar words in every 100 look these words up in an abridged dictionary. Try to Write down all words that are unfamiliar to you. Try to
- Tales. Repeat the rating process. In the school library, get a copy of Chaucer's Canterbury
- Do the same with Beowulf.

Evaluating data

- Make a master list of unfamiliar words from each of the three sources.
- word" section. Discuss the reasons for some dictionaries having a "new
- Try to bring in an old dictionary. Look for differences between this dictionary and a recent one. Discuss compound words.

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Problem: If language has changed, can we tell whether it is changing now

Gathering data

- Have students compile a master list of campus slang. As a are older than their parents. The students should make a master list of their parents' slang and grandparents' slang. Then have them talk to grandparents and to neighbors who parents and make a list of the slang of their generation. homework assignment, have the students talk to their
- Have many slang words survived over the last two or three generations? Why is slang used? Is slang language? Can any slang words be traced back to their origins? Do foreign languages contain slang?
- what will the class have proved? Have the class invent a list of slang words. Tell them to use After a week or two, class members should be hearing their divulge where the list came from or why it is being used. friends using some of these words. When this event occurs the words with their friends. Obviously, the class must not

ы Selected references

Eric Partridge. New York: Macmillan Company, 1961.
Partridge, Eric. Adventuring Among Words. New York: Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English. Edited by Eric Partridge. New York: Macmillan Company, 1961.

Oxford University Press, Inc., 1961.

Partridge, Eric. Slang Today and Yesterday. New York: Macmillan Company, 1954.

C. Problem: Can punctuation marks change along with language? Gathering data

a. An advertising executive has invented a new mark of end half inquiry. Examples include You don't say! and Who do you think you are? The interabang's symbol is, appropriately enough, an exclamation point superimposed on a question mark. use is to terminate sentences that are half exclamation and puncuation. It is called the interabang (or interobang). Its

- b. Is this mark of punctuation needed?
- c. Is there a mark of punctuation that is really unnecessary?
- d. Can the history of any of our punctuation marks be traced? Selected reference

"New Punctuation Mark Meets Need." Globe Language Arts Bulletin, XII (February, 1968), 1.

D. Problem: Can a language such as English be suddenly replaced by a different language?

1. Gathering data

- a. Almost 3,000 languages are in use in the world right now. Of the thirteen major languages, Chinese is spoken by 700 million, Russian by 130 million, and English by 250 million.
- b. Several world languages have been proposed. Among these are Esperanto and Interlingua. Are the major countries of the world likely to discard their present languages "in the interest of world peace" and take up a new language?
- c. What problems would be involved in such a change?
- d. What advantages would there be to such a change?

2. Selected references

Connor, G. A., and D. T. Connor. Esperanto: The World Interlanguage. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, Inc., 1959.

Gode, A., and Others. Interlingua: A Grammar of the International Language. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., Inc., 1963.

"Which Language?" Farade, December 15, 1968, p. 6.

E. Problem: Will breaking the code of dolphin "language" help us to understand the evolution of our own language?

. Gathering data

- that is raised in isolation normally develops sound patterns typical for his species. For example, dogs that have never heard another dog utter a sound of any kind still manage to bark. The same is not true for the human animal. Some ancients believed that a human raised in isolation would speak perfect Hebrew because it was man's "instinctive" language. But we know that if a human does not learn a language, he has none; the same is also true for dolphins.
- b. Do you have a pet?
- c. How does he communicate with you?
- d. Would you call his communication a language? Explain your answer.

- e. Has your dog ever said to you, "Hi, Mary. What are you going to give me for lunch today?"
- f. What would be the advantages of being able to talk with a dolphin?
- g. Why are scientists trying to decode what a dophin says instead of what a dog says?
- h. What determines the intelligence of an animal?
- i. What is the difference between knowledge and intelligence?

Selected references
Alpers, A. Dolphins: The Myth and the Animal. Boston:
Houghton Mifflin Co., 1961.

Houghton Mifflin Co., 1961.

Beasts, Brains, and Behavior Edited by J. Wiley. New York:

Scholastic Book Services, 1964.

Prob E Prochalage and 1 if Cleaview III: Scott Foresman

Ruch, F. Psychology and Life. Glenview, Ill.: Scott Foresman & Co., 1963.

Phylogeny

A. Problem: Which came first, a written or spoken language?

1. Gathering data

- a. Which form of language did you use first?
- b. Do you know of anyone who first learned to write, then to speak?
- c. Explain the expression "frozen words."
- Find an alphabet in an encyclopedia that shows the evolution of the alphabet from Phoenician to Greek to Latin to English. Explain how the changes took place.
- alphabets do not have?
- f. Are there letters in our alphabet *hat we can eliminate?
- 2. Selected references

Ernst, M. Words: English Roots and How They Grew. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1955.

Irwin, K. The Romance of Writing: From Hieroglyphics to Modern Letters, Numbers, and Signs. New York: Viking Press, Inc., 1957.

Lambert, E. Our Language: The Story of the Words We Use New York: Lothrop, Lee, & Shepard Co., 1955.

Ogg, O. The 26 Letters. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1948.

B. Problem: What makes us what we are?

Gathering data

a. Have you ever heard anyone say about someone else, "He has no personality"?



- b. Is it possible for a person to have no personality? Why or why not?
- c. Find the origin of the word "personality." It comes from the Latin word *persona*, which means mask. We falsely think that a normal person is always the same. Each of us is many people. We continually put on masks of different kinds. Compare the mask worn in the classroom with the one worn at lunch. What kind of mask is put on when a mother asks a child for help with the dishes?
- d. What scale can be used to rate someone's personality?
- e. Is it possible for a person to be 100 percent good or bad? Give reasons for your answer.
- f. Can we rate personality by looking at the face of the person being rated?
- g. What does an honest person look like?
- h. What does a dishonest person look like?
- i. How does an honest person act?
- j. How does a dishonest person act?
- k. Bring in pictures for the class to rate for honesty
- 2. Selected references

Hilgard, E., and R. Atkinson. Introduction to Psychology. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1967.

Morgan, C., and R. King. Introduction to Psychology. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1966.

Munn, N. Introduction to Psychology. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1962.

- C. Problem: Can personality be "read" by checking the location and size of bumps on a person's skull?
- Gathering data
- . Do you think that the brain is the center of human control?
- b. Do you think that different parts of the brain control different human functions?
- c. Do you think that an excess of brain in one area is likely to make an individual show an increased sensitivity to that function?
- d. Do you think that an excess of brain in one area is apt to make a bump in the skull?
- e. Can you find a phrenologist's "map" of the skull? Bring it to class.
- f. What has modern brain surgery proved or disproved about phrenology?
- g. Are there phrenologists around today?

- h. Why do you think some people go to phrenologists?
- i. Name some other "sciences" !'ke phrenology.
- 2. Selected references
- Ellis, J. Character Analysis: Subman or Superman? Santa Ana. Calif.: Flagg, 1929.
- Gibson, W., and L. Gibson. The Complete Illustrated Book of the Psychic Sciences. New York: Pocket Books, Inc., 1968.
- D. Problem: What price has man paid for standing on his hind legs?

 Gathering data
- a. Man is the only quadruped that stands erect on the flat of his feet. (Gorillas stand erect only momentarily.)
- b. Man's backbone has become vertical. It bends forward in the neck, backwards in the thoracic region, forward in the lumbar region, and backwards in the sacrum.
- c. The spinal column is the first organ in man to age.
- d. What back, leg, and foot problems does man fall victim to?
- e. What are the advantages of walking upright?
- f. What would be the advantages to a man of walking on "ail fours"? Skeletal diagrams should be brought to class for comparison.
- 2. Selected references
- Medawar, P. Uniqueness of the Individual. New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1957.
- Montagu, Ashley. Man: His First Million Years. New York:
 New American Library, 1962.
- Romer, A. S. "Major Steps in Vertebrate Evolution." Science, CLVIII (December, 1967), 1629.



Chapter 4

Development of Creativity: Field-Study Method

The social sciences offer a unique opportunity for developing creative approaches in interpersonal relationships. The field-study method, when used by students, has advantages as follows:

- Places the student in a position of understanding other people's opinions
- 2. Develops sensitivity to other people's problems
- 3. Gives the student practice in communication skills
- 4. Trains the student in the art of inquiring
- 5. Exposes the student to nuances of meaning that will further his understanding of social behavior in general

Topics for Interviews

Topics for exploration in interview situations are as follows:

1. What are some good questions to ask around our school?

After making up a list of questions, the teacher should have the class members predict the number of yes and no answers they will get from polling 100 students. Then the class should be sent into the "field" to ask the questions. A specific number of interviews should be assigned to each state to keep the total around 100.

Do you think our percentages would be different if we polled 200 people? 300 people? 500 people?

Would polling more people tend to make our figures more or less reliable?

How carefully must we choose the people we interview?

2. What do you think is the difference between observation and introspection?

Which is more reliable?
Can you think of a third method?
Do you think people ever lie to themselves?
Why should anyone ever lie to himself?
Is there danger in lying to oneself?
Have you ever lied to yourself?

Is daydreaming a form of lying to oneself?
Is a lie always bad?

- 3. How would you compare instinct in man and in lower animals?

 If an animal is raised with humans, he remains an animal. If a human is raised with animals is he an animal? Why?
- human is raised with animals, is he an animal? Why?

 If a child touches a hot stove, he will never touch a hot stove again. If a monkey touches a hot stove, he will never touch any stove again
- 4. Some psychologists think that the human animal may enjoy torturing himself to a slight extent. What do you think?

How amusing are amusement parks?

Alcoholic beverages may give the user a hangover. Do you think some people drink to get a hangover?

Do you think that bad-tasting medicine is more popular than good-tasting medicine?

If an antiseptic "burns," is it really doing its job?

5. There is nothing good or bad; thinking makes it so What do you think this statement means?

Is nothing really good or bad? Should there be censorship? If so, who will be the censor?

What sort of thing will we censor? Why?

Topics for the Classroom

In the opening section of this publication, a definition of social sciences was given: "Social sciences are [those sciences] concerned with the detailed, systematic, and theoretical study of human relationships." The disciplines that give major emphasis to the study of humanity are psychology (concerned with the individual); sociology (concerned with the grouping of humanity); and anthropology (concerned with the beginnings of man's acculturation). Gifted children in junior high school need to probe these disciplines more than the average child would.

The topics suggested in this section are only a few of many that can be used by the teacher to initiate gifted students into the broad coverage of psychology, sociology, and anthropology. These topics are given as follows:

1. How many ages do you have?

Ages are almost always given chronologically. The teacher should explain that persons have many ages. Chronological age is probably the least important of all.

22.2

?> If you were put in charge of training men or animals, would you preser to use reward or punishment?

Could you use them in combination?

If you did use them in combination, which would you start

Does society use reward or punishment more often?

Bring to class three pages of a newspaper. Mark examples of reward and punishment.

If a policeman stops your father's car, is he more likely to man's job? apply reward or punishment? Why? What is the police-

What should you do if you think the policeman has treated you unjustly?

How would our lives be different if there were no policemen?

3. Should an unjust law be obeyed?

What makes a law un ust?

Can you think of an example of an unjust law? Do you think that a curfew is unjust?

What can we do about unjust laws?

What is justice?

Consider the school to be a city in miniature

What roles are played by the principal, teachers, and students?

Make a sociogram of the student body. Include such headings groups do your lines connect? as socialites, hangers-on, hoodlums, and so forth. Which

How does the school as a city compare with a primitive tribe already studied?

Can you make a distinction between "upper class" "lower class" in a society?

Can yearly income be a criterion?

Can attitude toward society be a criterion?

Can the type of work done by the head of the household be

If these classifications exist, is it possible to move from one class to another? If so, how?

education a criterion?

If combinations of criteria are needed to identify a person as belonging to the upper or lower class, what would the most likely combinations be?

Trace man's recreational activity from ancient times to the

Are there any similarities between past and present? Do you see any general improvement?

Do the amusements of a civilization reveal anything about its

Do you think boxing and wrestling are moral amusements? morals or state of decay? Are they now more moral than they once were?

7. Do plants and animals adapt themselves to their environment by changing structurally?

What is your opinion of bullfighting?

What argument can you muster for either view? If you don't think they do, what authorities can you quote? If you think they do, what authorities can you quote?

8. Man attempts to solve his problems by means of devices he invents called folkways.

One folkway is shaking hands. Why do we shake hands? Another folkway is having the man work and the woman stay change? Why? home (usually). Is this folkway changing? Do folkways

How many folkways can you list?

Can you find folkways in other societies somewhat like our own?

How many of our folkways can you trace back to their origins?

Do you think that folkways have helped man to solve problems?

Can you think of any problems man has raised by his use of folk ways?

What are emotional age, social age, and mental age?

What other ages does a person have?

How can these ages be measured in others?

Can a junior high school student have an emotional age of How can we measure these ages in ourselves? five? What would happen if he did?

What advantage is there to discovering our various ages?

How do societies decide who gets what?

What other criteria can you think of? Is service to society a criterion for reward? Research and contrast unlike societies. Do all societies use the same method?



10. How are decisions made in primitive or tribal societies?

Who enforces decisions?

What types of punishment are used for transgressors?

What types of rewards are given to those who do not transgress?

Do you think capital punishment is civilized? Why or why

11. Are we born with inbred pugnacity?

If pugnacity is not inbred, how can we survive in a competitive world?

If pugnacity is inbred, does this mean that war is inevitable?

12. An ancient philosopher, said that luxury causes war. Do you

What is luxury?

Is your father's car a luxury?

Is luxury inevitable

Do you have possessions that you consider to be luxuries? Do civilized countries fight more wars than do uncivilized countries? What reasons can you give for your answer?

Most sociologists say that man has always lived in groups.

Do you agree with this statement?

What reasons does man have for living in groups?

Can nature, as an enemy, be resisted better by groups of men than by a man alone?

Compare groups in primitive societies with our own. What groups do we have within our own society? What disadvantages are there to living in groups? What do you think the first groups consisted of?

14. It has been said that of all the animals in the world, man is and yet he is the only maladjusted animal. the only one who can change his environment to suit himself,

Do you believe this statement to be true? Give reasons for your answer.

When man changes his environment, does he always do it for Name some ways in which man has changed his environment.

Make a list of man's environmental changes that have been for the better. For the worse,

If certain animals could change their environments, what do you think they would do?

> What would be the advantages and disadvantages of man's taking over control of the weather?

If man could take over control of certain physical functions of the solar system (such as planet rotation and revolution), would this power be good or bad? Give your

15. Petrified ant hills show that millions of years ago ants acted continually changed his behavior. precisely as they do now. Over the years, however, man has

Can you give reasons why the above statement is true? Do you think man will continue to change in the future? How?

Do you think ants will change? If so, how?

What kinds of things can make animals change their behavior?

What do you call a change of behavior? What kinds of things make you change your behavior?

16. How many societies are you a member of?

What identifies a society?

What kinds of things affect society?

What does society affect?

17. Man has great need for security, but he also has need for adventure.

Do these needs run contrary to each other? If they do, how individual? can they be present at the same time in the same

Give examples from your own life.

Do you think that some people need security more than others?

Do you think that some people need adventure more than others?

What are the advantages of being more rather than less adventurous, and vice versa?

Have you ever been homesick?

What do you think causes homesickness?

What influence does a person's age have on his need for security and adventure?

What influence does a person's environment have on his need for security and adventure?

18. Einstein once said that if his ideas turned out to be good, the out to be bad, they would say he was Jewish. Germans would say he was German, and that if they turned

What did he mean?

Einstein spent the last years of his life in the United States.
Would you say he was German or American?

Make a list of people who were born elsewhere but came to the United States. List their accomplishments.

Can you find the names of Americans who left this country to take up citizenship elsewhere? What reasons did they give for leaving?

Why do so many persons come to this country but so few leave?

Write the name of a country in which you would like to take up residence. Then study about that country.

19. The meeting of the Indian and the white man is often regarded as one of the great tragedies of history because no two races have understood each other less.

Do you think the Indian or white man was right? (Debate.) Does a superior culture have the right to destroy an inferior culture?

Was the Indian culture inferior?

What reasons did the white man have for coming here?

How has Indian culture affected our own culture?

Contrast the treatment of Indians in the United States with the treatment of those in Mexico.

What has happened to the Indians of Japan?

20. Recently, natives on a Pacific island raised money to buy our President from us. These natives remembered that during World War II American soldiers had arrived with thousands of tons of supplies. The islanders thought that buying our President would bring them more supplies.

Do you think that the islanders would give our President god-like status?

Do you think that you could diplomatically explain to the natives why they may not purchase our President? Give some reasons.

21. Discuss the "great man theory." Does itistory make great men or do great men make history?

Would Washington and Lincoln fulfill their roles in history (in a modified way, of course) if they were living today? Or, if the political situation today did not call upon their special talents, would they lead quiet lives like the majority of the rest of us and never be heard from?

Do you agree with the historian who said that if Hitler were alive today in a nation that has the hydrogen bomb, the world would be destroyed?

22. How can poor communication endanger relations between different groups of people?

The Boxer Rebellion began when foreigners in China built towers, not realizing that the Chinese believed that the spirits of the dead flew low. The towers, they reasoned would interfere with the flight of the spirits.

The Maori cut down a flagpole flying the union jack. The British felt this action to be justification for war, not realizing that it was Maori custom to cut down a pole during a dispute. This action simply meant that the Maori were ready to discuss the problem. The British couldn't understand why the Maori would provoke them by cutting down their flag. The Maori couldn't understand why the British would attack them when they showed a willingness to communicate.

23. When classes were asked to predict how life would be different in future years, they found the following predictions made by architect Norman Bel Geddes in 1931. These changes were to have taken place in ten years, or by 1941.

There will be double-deck streets, divided into lanes for slow stop-off traffic and lanes for express traffic.

Synthetic materials will replace natural materials used in the construction of buildings.

Every roof will have a garden.

Houses in all climates will have flat roofs.

The garage will become part of the house and will be placed on the street front.

Airplanes will land and take off vertically.

Generally speaking, houses will be smaller, but rooms will be larger.

Mechanical devices will open doors, serve meals, and remove dirty dishes and clothing to the appropriate departments in the building.

Talking pictures will replace talking professors.

Aircraft will attain speeds up to six miles a minute.

A combination dictaphone and typewriter will replace stenographers.

Events of national interest will be available by television simultaneously with their occurrence.

There will be no epidemics.



There will be no incurable diseases.

The working week will consist of four six-hour days. I

How many of these predictions would you say have come completely true? Fartially true?

Would you say that the most important predictions have come true?

In some cases, how much have we progressed past the prediction, such as in the case of airplane speed?

Do you think that epidemics will ever be eradicated?

24. When classes were asked to predict how life would be by the year 2,000 they assembled the following predictions:

Cars will be powered by electricity.

Boston through Washington, D.C., will be one city, as will San Francisco through San Diego.

Cities and farms will be located beneath the sea.

Watches will be nothing more than miniature television receivers.

Television will be three-dimensional and will cover the entire front wall of a room.

Weather will be controlled, and certain cities will be completely encased by plastic domes.

Many of the present deserts will be productive farm areas.

Transplants of human animal and artificial organs will be

Transplants of human, animal, and artificial organs will keep people alive until they just "wear out."

A pill to make people smarter will be widely used

A cup of coffee will cost 50 cents.

The average work week will consist of 22 hours, the average vacation will be 26 weeks, and the average retirement ago will be 38.

Students will be taught at home by telephone, television, and computer.

With six billion people on earth, we will be eating foods that most of us would not consider edible today; i.e., seaweed, algae, and so forth.

There will be fish farms.

Parking spaces might be hereditary.

How many of these predictions do you think are likely to come true?

How would a six-months' vacation for your parents affect you?

Can you think of any disadvantages to being taught by a computer?

In a food shortage, do you think you could eat eel, rattlesnake, ants, or grasshoppers?

What determines our taste in food?

Go to a supermarket and make a list of the exotic foods sold there.

25. Imagine that the year is A.D. 2300. The class is made up of a team of archaeologists. You are digging on the site of where the school once stood.

How much of the ruins would be above ground, if any?
Where does the debris come from that covers ruins?
In how many ways could the school have been destroyed.

In how many ways could the school have been destroyed? What parts of the school are apt to be preserved? Lockers? Walls? Books? Notebooks?

Are we apt to recognize a pencil sharpener if we dig it out of the ruins?

What artifacts are we apt to find that will tell us this was a

school?

Imagine we find the foundations of the walls. Draw a floor plan of the school.

Would it help archaeologists if a time capsule were left behind? If we were to bury a time capsule now for archaeologists to find in 500 years, which of the following items would be most representative of our lives today?

A set of textbooks
Blackboard and chalk
Pencils and pens
A grade book
An annual
A copy of the cafeteria menu
A diary kept by the gifted class
A map of the school grounds

Records of the alma mater (or tapes)
Records of a typical class session.
Imagine you are going to leave such a time capsule.

A set of rules and regulations for the school

Can the class begin keeping a diary?
What items are important enough to put into such a diary?
If you were taking pictures of events to include in the capsule, what events would you record?



¹D. Gordon and V. King, College Readings on Today and Its Problems. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc., 1933, p.3.

The large number of topics in this chapter is presented so that teachers may have a wide selection of topics likely to stimulate creativity, analyses, and evaluation. The topics may be used for reporting, newspaper articles, debates, and plays.

Selected References

Book: for Students

Nonfiction

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Baldwin, G. The Riddle of the Past: How Archaeological Detectives Solve

Prehistoric Puzzles. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1965.

Describes in clear, interesting detail the work of the archaeologist in locating a site, organizing and conducting the excavation, and studying and identifying

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Comparative study of different cultures through which "we can see our own socially transmitted customary behavior set beside that of the other and

socially transmitted customary behavior set beside that of the other and strangely different peoples."

Brown, L. This Believing World: A Simple Account of the Great Religions of Mankind. New York: Macmillan Company, 1944

Mankind. New York: Macmillan Company, 1944.

A popular work on comparative religion. Traces the growth of religious faith from earliest times to the rise and spread of the great religions. Covers a vast field and is most readable.

Chase, S. Guide to Straight Thinking. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., 1956.

Explains the principles of logic and describes the 13 common fallacies to which all are prone, together with their use as propaganda techniques. Chase believes that straight thinking calls for "common sense, lining up the facts, and figuring out what they mean and how best to react to them." Cheney, S. A New World History of Art. New York: Viking Press, Inc., 1962.

Comprehensive work on art from prehistoric times to the present. Good for reports rather than for reading of the whole book.

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Easy to read. Covers the laser, Comsat, electronic computers, biopower, the solar battery, ultrasonics, ground-effect machines, and bionics.

ERIC

The Silent Language: Communication Without Speech. Garden City,

culture as various concepts of people's readiness to act. Points out difficulty people have in communicating with one another. Defines

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Story of the Dead Sea scrolls from their discovery in 1947 to their final the Palestine Archaeological Museum in the old part of

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during World War II. She spends about seven years of her life in different About a Jewish girl sent with her family to a German concentration camp

Bonham, F. Durango Street. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1965. sixteen-year-old Negro just out of a prison forestry camp on parole, finds it impossible to protect himself from a gang unless he joins an enemy gang and Convincing novel of life in an impoverished Negro glietto. Rufus Henry, a

Canaway, W. Find the Boy. New York: Viking Press, Inc., 1961. the Suez bombings encounters many types of people and animals. Making his way alone across Africa, a young boy whose parents were killed

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Maine. Comparisons of customs and the times are delightful. Frank, P. Alas, Babylon. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1959.

they find themselves back where their pioneer ancestors had been. has narrowly escaped nuclear bombing. Unhurt but threatened from all sides, Adventure tale of Americans starting life over from scratch after their town

Godden, R. An Episode of Sparrows. New York: Viking Press, Inc., 1955. cornflower seeds dropped on the pavement and how their actions change the Story of how two London slum children make a garden from a packet of lives of several other persons.

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